

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

LEMART GLENN,

Plaintiff,

v.

ROBERT WILKIE, Secretary of UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS, on Behalf of Department of
Veterans Affairs, agency,

Defendant.

NO. C18-1162 BJR

STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the

1 applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential
2 information under seal.

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4 2. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL

5 "Confidential" material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced
6 or otherwise exchanged: (1) medical records and medical information, (2) personnel and
7 employment-related records of any current or former government employee and/or military
8 employee, (3) tax records; and (4) any other records whose release without a protective order would
9 potentially violate the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

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11 3. SCOPE

12 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as defined
13 above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all copies,
14 excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations,
15 or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

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17 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the
18 public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

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20 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

21 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or
22 produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
23 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the
24 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material
25 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures
26 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.
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1 4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the
2 court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
3 confidential material only to:

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5 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of counsel to
6 whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

7 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving party
8 to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties agree that a
9 particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so designated;

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11 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and
12 who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

13 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

14 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of confidential
15 material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the
16 service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all
17 originals and copies of any confidential material;

18
19 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably
20 necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A),
21 unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
22 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately
23 bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this
24 agreement;

25
26 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other
27 person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.
28

1 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
2 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party, in
3 accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
4 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to
5 seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the
6 designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue,
7 and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing
8 the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and
9 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under
10 seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance
11 with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.
12

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14 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

15 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or non-
16 party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take care to limit
17 any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The
18 designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or
19 oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents, items,
20 or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit
21 of this agreement.
22

23 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown
24 to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to unnecessarily
25 encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
26 other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.
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1 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
2 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
3 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.
4

5 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement
6 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,
7 disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so
8 designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.
9

10 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and
11 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), the
12 designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains confidential
13 material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the
14 producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
15 markings in the margins).
16

17 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any
18 participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial
19 proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony
20 after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the
21 transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or
22 exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at
23 trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.
24

25 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the
26 exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
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1 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the
2 producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

3 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate
4 qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party’s right to secure
5 protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the
6 receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with
7 the provisions of this agreement.
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10 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

11 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
12 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party’s confidentiality
13 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens,
14 or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a
15 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original
16 designation is disclosed.
17

18 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding
19 confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential
20 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or
21 affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected
22 parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the date,
23 manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face
24 meeting or a telephone conference.
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27 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention,
28 the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local Civil Rule 7

1 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of persuasion in any such
2 motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper
3 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose
4 the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as
5 confidential until the court rules on the challenge.
6

7 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
8 LITIGATION

9 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
10 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that party
11 must:

12 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
13 subpoena or court order;
14

15 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in
16 the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this
17 agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and
18

19 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the
20 designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

21 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

22 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential
23 material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving
24 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures,
25 (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the
26 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,
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1 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
2 Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
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5 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
6 MATERIAL

7 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced
8 material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties
9 are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to
10 modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides
11 for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order
12 under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.
13

14 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

15 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party
16 must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and
17 summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.
18

19 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
20 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition
21 and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product,
22 even if such materials contain confidential material.
23

24 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
25 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.
26
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1 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD

2
3 DATED this 15th day of August, 2019.

/s/ Richard H. Wooster
RICHARD H. WOOSTER
Attorney for Plaintiff

6 DATED this 15th day of August, 2019.

/s/ Patricia D. Gugin
PATRICIA D. GUGIN
Attorney for Defendant

9
10 **ORDER**

11 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

12
13 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any
14 documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or
15 state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those
16 documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other
17 privilege or protection recognized by law.

18
19 DATED this ⁴⁴16 day of August 2019.

20
21 Barbara J. Rothstein
22 The Honorable Barbara J. Rothstein
23 United States District Court
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1 EXHIBIT A

2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

3 I, _____ [print or type full name], of
4 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have
5
6 read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United
7 States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date] in the case of
8 *Glenn v Wilkie*, Case No. C18-1162 BRJ. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of
9 this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could
10 expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not
11 disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to
12 any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.
13

14 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for
15 the Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated
16 Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.
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18 Date: _____

19 City and State where sworn and signed: _____

20 Printed name: _____

21 Signature: _____
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